

MARVEL
COMICS

THE WORLD'S GREATEST COMIC MAGAZINE!



Fantastic Four



CLIPS PHOTOS

WASTELAND
PHASE 1

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See THE FABULOUS
FANTASTIC FOUR
 FACE THE
 UNSTOPPABLE
 MENACE OF
AN ENEMY AMONG US!

STORY BY STAN LEE
 PRESENTATION BY TOM DEFALCO
 WRITTEN BY TOM DEFALCO
 PENCILED BY CARLOS PACHECO
 INKED BY BOB WILACEK
 LETTERING BY RICHARD STARRINGS
 COME CRAFT
 COLORS BY ARIANE LEVISHOEK
 EDITED BY SUZANNE GAFFNEY
 OVERSEEN BY BOB HARRAS

SUDDEN BURSTS OF LAUGHTER MINGLE WITH GASPS OF AMAZEMENT IN THIS TINY BAVARIAN VILLAGE, AS THE SCENTS OF FRESHLY MADE PRETZELS AND ROASTING SAUSAGES WRESTLE IN THE AIR.

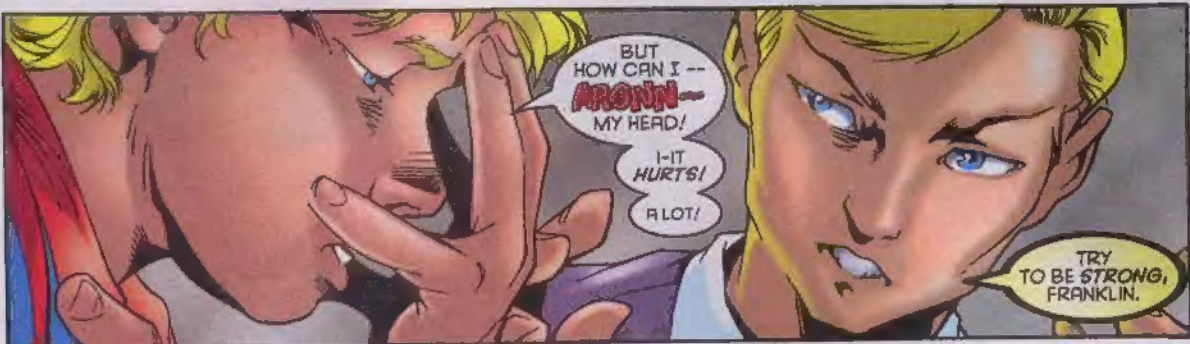
ENJOYING THE CIRCUS, FRANKLIN?

THIS PLACE IS SOOOO VERY COOOOL!

WHERE ARE WE, CHARLIE? HOW'D WE GET HERE?!

YOU DID IT, FRANKLIN! YOU BROUGHT US HERE.

YOU SAW THESE IMAGES WITHIN MY MIND... AND MADE THEM REAL.

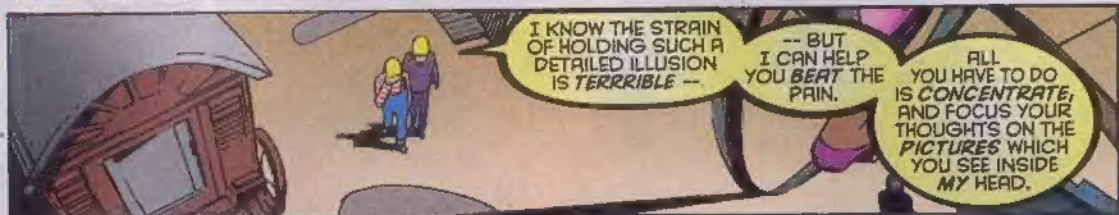


BUT HOW CAN I --
ARONN--
MY HEAD!

I-IT
HURTS!

A LOT!

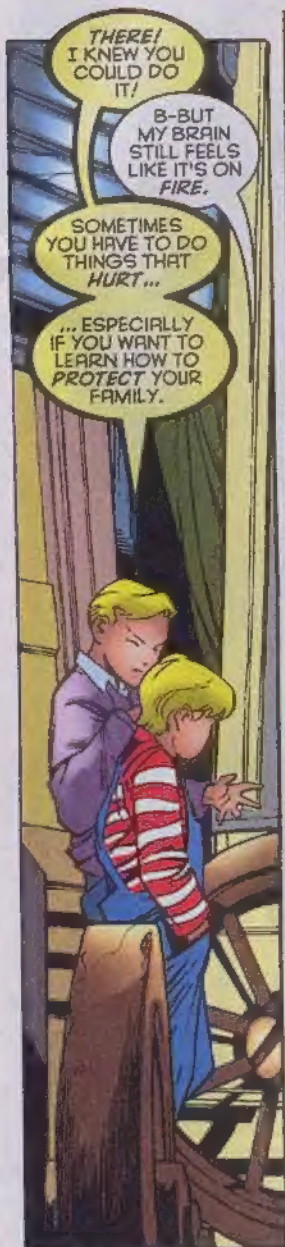
TRY
TO BE STRONG,
FRANKLIN.



I KNOW THE STRAIN
OF HOLDING SUCH A
DETAILED ILLUSION
IS TERRIBLE --

-- BUT
I CAN HELP
YOU BEAT THE
PAIN.

ALL
YOU HAVE TO DO
IS CONCENTRATE,
AND FOCUS YOUR
THOUGHTS ON THE
PICTURES WHICH
YOU SEE INSIDE
MY HEAD.



THERE!
I KNEW YOU
COULD DO
IT!

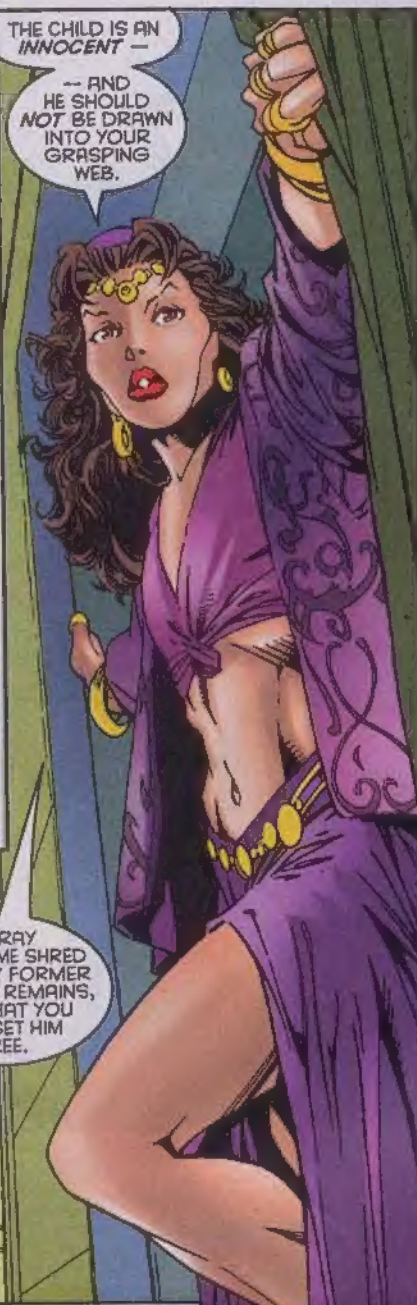
B-BUT
MY BRAIN
STILL FEELS
LIKE IT'S ON
FIRE.

SOMETIMES
YOU HAVE TO DO
THINGS THAT
HURT...

... ESPECIALLY
IF YOU WANT TO
LEARN HOW TO
PROTECT YOUR
FAMILY.



THIS
ISN'T RIGHT,
CHARLES! NOR
IS IT LIKE YOU...
BUT IT IS LIKE
THE OTHER
ONE.



THE CHILD IS AN
INNOCENT --

-- AND
HE SHOULD
NOT BE DRAWN
INTO YOUR
GRASPING
WEB.

I PRAY
THAT SOME SHRED
OF YOUR FORMER
DECENCY REMAINS,
AND THAT YOU
WILL SET HIM
FREE.



WHO IS THIS LADY,
CHARLIE?

IS
SHE YOUR
MOMMA?

HER
NAME IS
MAGDA. SHE
IS SOMEONE
WE... I ONCE
KNEW...

LONG,
LONG AGO!



HEY!

SOMETHING'S --

-- HAPPENING!

THE CIRCUS...
THE VILLAGE...
GONE.

WE'VE
RETURNED TO
YOUR BEDROOM IN
FOUR FREEDOM'S
PLAZA!

THAT'S
OKAY!

I
RECOGNIZE
THAT SOUND!



IT'S MY
PARENTS'
SHIP!

THEY'RE
BACK! THEY'RE
HOME!

C'MON!
I WANNA SEE
'EM!

NO...
YOU GO
AHEAD.

I'LL
MEET UP
WITH YOU
SOON.

BUT
REMEMBER --
YOU CANNOT TELL
ANYONE WHERE
WE'VE BEEN OR
WHAT WE'VE
DONE.

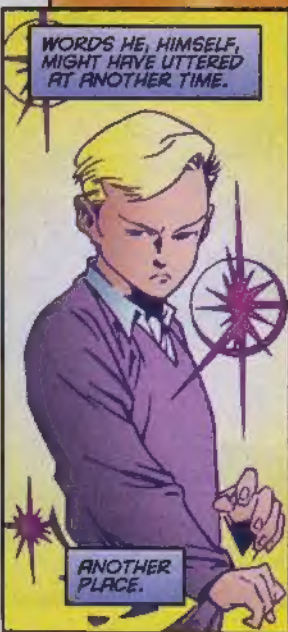
NOT
EVEN YOUR
PARENTS.



YOU -- AND THEY -- WOULD BE
IN GREAT DANGER IF CERTAIN
PEOPLE KNEW ABOUT OUR
SPECIAL POWERS.

DON'T
WORRY, CHARLIE!
YOU CAN TRUST
ME!

FOR THE MEREST INSTANT,
A COLD UNEASINESS FILLS
THE ONE CALLED CHARLES
AS HE RECALLS MAGDA'S
WORDS.



WORDS HE, HIMSELF,
MIGHT HAVE UTTERED
AT ANOTHER TIME.

ANOTHER
PLACE.



BUT THE TIME
IS NOW!

AND HIS
COURSE
IS SET!

INNOCENCE AND
DECENCY NO
LONGER HAVE
A PLACE IN HIS
HEART --



-- OR
SOUL!

MOMENTS LATER, IN
THE FANTASTIC
FOUR'S SPACE/TIME LAB...

THE
SHUTTLE'S
FINALLY LOCKED
BACK INTO PLACE,
STRETCH!

THIS
CRATE MAY
BE FINE FOR
CRUISIN' THROUGH
SUB-SPACE, BUT
IT SURE MAKES
A HECKLVA
RACKET!

I CAN
ALWAYS DESIGN A
MORE EFFICIENT NOISE-
DAMPENING SYSTEM,
BEN —

— BUT
THAT WILL HAVE
TO WAIT UNTIL I
GIVE A BIG HUG TO
MY FAVORITEST LITTLE
MAN IN THE WHOLE
UNIVERSE!

HEY,
DAD! YOU
MISS ME?

ALWAYS!

THOUGH HE HAS CROSSED GALAXIES
AND VIEWED WONDERS FAR BEYOND
THE KEN OF MOST MORTAL MEN, REED
RICHARDS KNOWS NO GREATER THRILL
THAN THE LOVING EMBRACE OF HIS
YOUNG SON...

I'M STARVIN', LANG! I HOPE YA'VE
BEEN TA A FOOD STORE WHILE THE
RESTA US WERE OUT
JOYRIDIN'!

I
CALLED YOUR
FAVORITE PIZZA
PARLOR AS SOON
AS I HEARD THE
SHUTTLE.

YA
ORDERED
A SUPER
DELUXE?!

WITH
EXTRA
PEPPERONI AND
ANCHOVES!

—AHEM—
I TRUST YOU
HAVE NO
PROBLEMS TO
REPORT?

NONE
AT ALL.

FRANKLIN,
DID YOU DO
ANYTHING SPECIAL
WHILE MOMMY AND
DADDY WERE
AWAY?

Uh...

... NOPE.

NOT
REALLY.

JOHNNY —?

HER NAME
IS LYJA.

SHE'S A
SKRULL —

— AN ALIEN
SHAPE-
SHIFTER
WHO WAS
ONCE
MARRIED
TO THE
HUMAN
TORCH.

YOU
AND I
SHOULD
TALK.

IN
PRIVATE.

YEAH!
YOU GOT
THAT RIGHT!



EVEN AS JOHNNY STORM AND LYJA QUIETLY SLIP AWAY, THE ONLY VOICE OF NATHANIEL RICHARDS IGNITES THE AIR...

LET'S HAVE A PARTY!
WE SHOULD CELEBRATE OUR VICTORY OVER HYPERSTORM.



OUR VICTORY--?!

YOU NEVER WOULD HAVE BEATEN HIM WITHOUT THE INFORMATION WHICH I SO GRACIOUSLY SUPPLIED.



WHY YA MISERABLE TWO-FACED --!

PUT HIM DOWN, BEN.

EXCUSE ME, DR. RICHARDS...



YOU HAVE A VISITOR IN THE RECEPTION AREA.

PROFESSOR CHARLES XAVIER.

AND I AM ALSO ROUTING A PRIORITY TRANSMISSION TO THE COMMUNICATION CENTER...

...FROM THE AVENGERS.

WHAT IS IT, ROBERTA?



PROFESSOR X AND THE AVENGERS?!

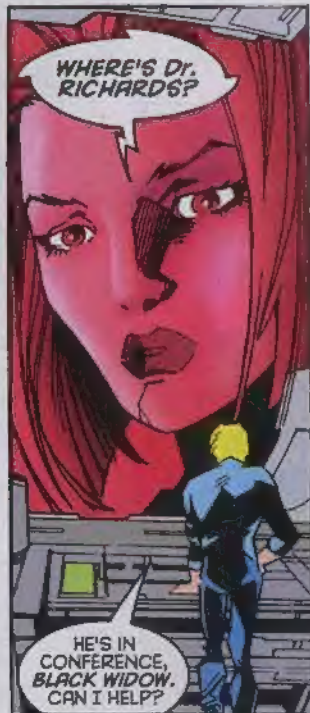
YOU HANDLE XAVIER, REED.

I'LL FIELD THE CALL, AND ALERT YOU IF IT'S IMPORTANT.

HEY, LANG! MENTION MY NAME IF THEM ASSEMBLERS ARE HAVIN' ANOTHER RECRUITIN' DRIVE!

I HEAR THEY AIN'T SO CHOOSY ABOUT WHO THEY CLOBBER!





WHERE'S DR. RICHARDS?

HE'S IN
CONFERENCE,
BLACK WIDOW.
CAN I HELP?



WE
HAVE REASON
TO BELIEVE HIS
SON, FRANKLIN,
IS IN GRAVE
DANGER.

AN
ENTITY KNOWN
AS ONSLAUGHT HAS
ALREADY CORRUPTED
CHARLES XAVIER
AND —



YOU'VE
HEARD QUITE
ENOUGH, MR.
LANG.

TIME TO
CLOSE YOUR
EYES —

— AND
GO TO
SLEEP!



SOMETHING'S
NOT RIGHT. I
DON'T LIKE
IT...

...HE
BROKE THE
TRANSMISSION
WHILE YOU
WERE STILL
TALKING!

I
DOUBT HE DID IT
ON PURPOSE,
BISHOP.

HOWEVER —
THAT'S
WEIRD...

I CAN'T
SEEM TO REESTABLISH
COMMUNICATIONS!

IT
MAY ONLY BE
A TECHNICAL
MALFUNCTION,
BUT —

NO
NEED TO
FINISH,
WIDOW.

WE
CAN ALL
GUESS WHAT'S
HAPPENED!

UNAWARE OF
WHAT JUST
TRANSPIRED --

-- THE FF REACT
TO A STUNNING
PROPOSAL.

Y-YA
CAN'T BE
SERIOUS!

DID
I HEAR YOU
CORRECTLY,
PROFESSOR?

YOU
WANT US
TO GIVE YOU
CUSTODY OF
FRANKLIN?

RELATIONS
BETWEEN HUMANS
AND MUTANTS HAVE
REACHED A MOST
CRITICAL JUNCTURE,
REED.

IT'S A
NECESSARY
PRECAUTION FOR
THE CHILD'S OWN
GOOD.

AT
THE XAVIER
INSTITUTE, HE'LL
LEARN TO CONTROL
AND HONE HIS
MUTANT POWERS --

-- AND,
MOST
IMPORTANT,
HE'LL BE
SAFE.

SAFER
THAN HERE --
WITH HIS
FAMILY?!

I'M
SORRY,
PROFESSOR. I
CAN'T ACCEPT
THAT.

BESIDES,
OUR SECURITY
IS SECOND TO
NONE!

I'M
SURE YOU
MEAN WELL, BUT
WE'LL PASS ON
YOUR OFFER.

NO
ONE'S TAKING
MY BABY FROM
ME!

I CERTAINLY UNDERSTAND
AND EMPATHIZE WITH
YOUR RESPONSE, Mrs.
RICHARDS...

...BUT
YOU MUST
CONSIDER WHAT'S
BEST FOR THE
CHILD.

YOU'RE BORDERING ON
IMPERTINENCE, SIR.
WE DON'T NEED AN
OUTSIDER TO TELL US
HOW TO RAISE THE
BOY.

FRANKLIN
BELONGS WITH
US, AND WE'RE
QUITE CAPABLE OF
ATTENDING TO HIS
SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS
WITHOUT YOUR
HELP.

EVEN AS
THE DEBATE
CONTINUES --

— THE TORCH AND LYRA
PREPARE TO EMBARK ON
AN EMOTIONALLY CHARGED
DISCOURSE OF THEIR OWN.

THIS
TALK YOU
WANTED...

... DOES IT
CONCERN THE
OTHER WOMAN
I'VE BEEN
SEEING...

... LAURA
GREEN?

Uh...

... ACTUALLY...

... YES!

WHY
DID JOHNNY
MENTION LAURA?
DOES HE SUSPECT
THE TRUTH?

I'VE
GOT TO
GATHER MY
COURAGE, AND
TRY TO CALM
DOWN.

IT
DOESN'T
MATTER WHAT HE'S
SURMISED, I CAME
HERE TO CONFESS
THAT LAURA ISN'T
REAL.

SHE'S
ONLY A GUISE
I ASSUMED
TO BE NEAR
HIM.

BUT
THINGS GOT
WAY OUT OF
CONTROL --!



YOU
GOT
SOMETHING
TO SAY,
LADY?



YOU'RE
NOT MAKING
THIS EASY.

WHY
SHOULD I?

YOU'VE
BEEN PLAYING
ME FOR A CHUMP
EVER SINCE WE
FIRST --
HEY!

LOOKS
LIKE WE'VE
GOT COMPANY.
SOMEBODY'S TRYING
TO SNEAK PAST
OUR SECURITY BY
TELEPORTING
INTO THE HANGAR!



IT'S
LOCKJAW,
AND --
WHOA!

SOMETHING
BIG MUST BE
UP -- REAL BIG -- IF
X-GUYS LIKE ICEMAN
AND BISHOP ARE
SUDDENLY HANGIN'
WITH AVENGERS LIKE
CRYSTAL AND
HAWKEYE!

YOU
GOT THAT
RIGHT,
TORCHIE OL'
PAL.

WE
COULD BE
TALKING
END-OF-THE-
WORLD-TYPE
BIG!



AND, AT THAT EXACT
INSTANT...

SINCE
REASON CANNOT
CONVINCE YOU TO
RELINQUISH THE
CHILD...

... I WILL
DISPENSE WITH
SUBTLETY!

YOU ARE
CORRECT, DR.
RICHARDS.

CHARLES
XAVIER IS
MERELY MY
VESSEL.

GET
A LOAD'A
OL' BALDY!
HE'S SUDDENLY
GLOWIN' LIKE
THE FOURTH'A
JULY!

LOOK
SHARP, TEAM!
THIS MAY NOT BE
THE XAVIER WE
KNOW!

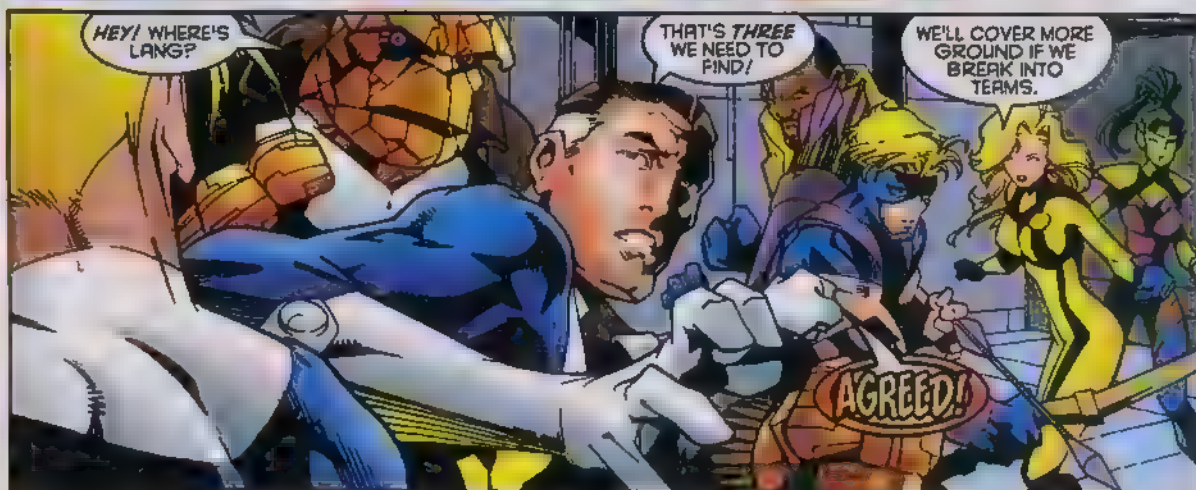
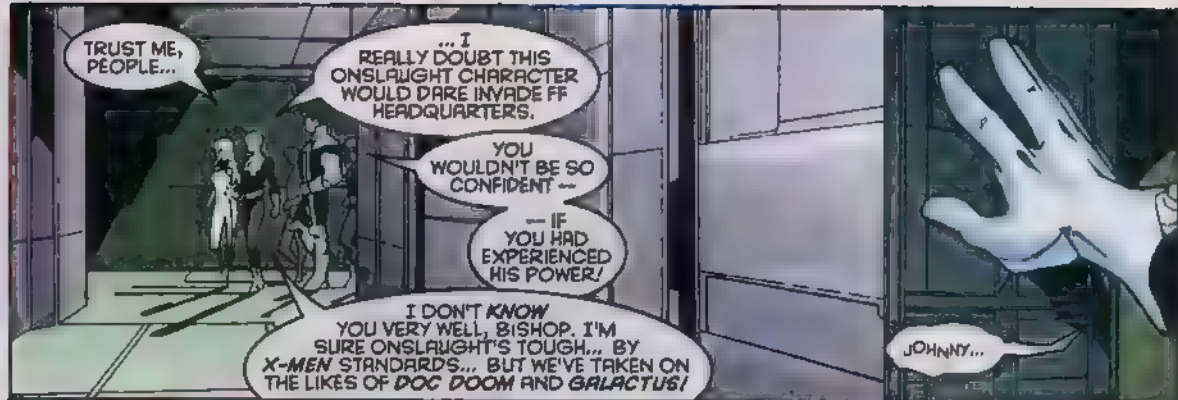
I
TAKE WHAT I
DESIRE --

-- AND
WHAT I
DESIRE IS THE
MUTANT
CHILD!

FOR I AM
ONSLAUGHT!

ASIDE
FROM THE
DIFFERENCES IN
NAME AND APPEARANCE,
YOU'LL ALSO NOTE
THAT I DIVERGE IN
ANOTHER CRUCIAL
FASHION...

CRASHWOOOM



BARELY
FIFTEEN
SECONDS
LATER --

-- THE FIRST
SUCH TEAM
BLAZES

THROUGH THE
FF'S COMMU-
NICATIONS
CENTERS!

CRYSTAL!
NATHAN!
FOLLOW
ME!

WHOA!
WHAT A MESS!
WE FOUND
SCOTT --

-- BUT
IT LOOKS LIKE
ONSLAUGHT TOOK
A BAZOOKA TO OUR
COMMUNICATIONS
EQUIPMENT!

HOW IS HE,
CRYS?

UNCONSCIOUS...
BUT ALIVE!

AND
YOU NEEDN'T
WORRY ABOUT
CALLING IN FOR
BACK-UP!

I
ALREADY
DISPATCHED
LOCKJAW
TO --

SHHH!

DON'T
SAY TOO
MUCH! WE
MAY NOT BE
ALONE!

INCREASING HIS
TEMPERATURE,
THE HUMAN TORCH
SUDDENLY FLOODS
THE ROOM WITH
WAVES OF FLASHING
HEAT, AND THEN --!

LOOK!

MY
FLAMES ARE
SILHOUETTING
A FIGURE
STANDING IN THE
CORNER!

HE'S
GOTTA BE
ONSLAUGHT!

YAHOO!
FIGHTING SIDE-BY-SIDE WITH YOU BRINGS BACK THE OLD DAYS... WHEN YOU AND I WERE AN ITEM.

THINGS WERE SIMPLER THEN. YOU DIDN'T NEED A SCORECARD TO TELL THE BAD GUYS FROM THE GOOD, AND YOU KNEW WHO YOU COULD TRUST

YOU SHOULD HAVE HEEDED YOUR COMPANION'S ADVICE, YOUNG MAN.

THIS JOKER MAY BE A CHALLENGE FOR THE X-GUYS, BUT HE'S STRICTLY AMATEUR NIGHT TO THE FANTASTIC FOUR!

WITH A CASUAL THOUGHT, I CAN INSTANTLY SEIZE CONTROL OF HER ELEMENTAL POWERS --

-- AND EXTINGUISH YOUR FLAME AS I SEND YOU CRASHING INTO THE CEILING!

WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU, JOHNNY STORM? YOU'RE ACTING LIKE AN OVERCONFIDENT HOTHEAD!

BE CAREFUL! YOU MUSTN'T UNDERESTIMATE ONSLAUGHT'S POWER!

DON'T SWEAT IT, CRYSTAL! I'LL REMIND YOU OF THOSE WORDS WHEN WE'RE LAUGHING ABOUT THIS LATER.

AND NOW, CRYSTAL...

"DEAR, SWEET CRYSTAL..."

"...WHATEVER SHALL I DO WITH YOU?"



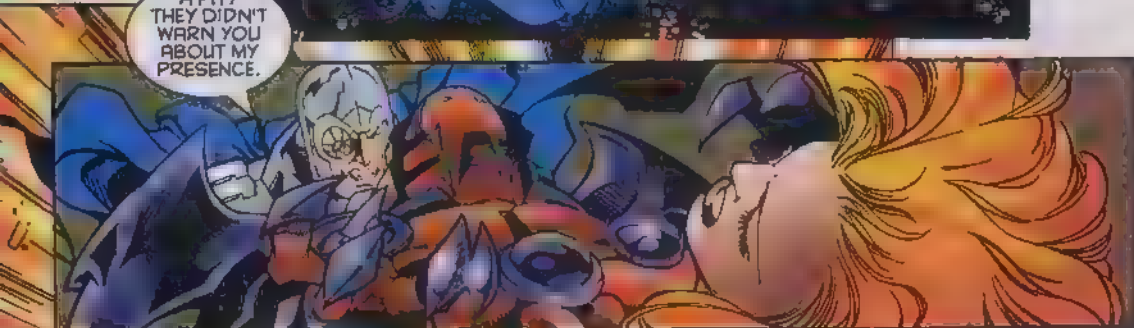
WHILE
I AM LOATHE
TO INJURE
YOU --

-- I
CANNOT
PERMIT YOU TO
INTERFERE WITH
MY PLANS!

THUS
I SHALL CAUSE
YOU TO BELIEVE
THAT YOU'VE BEEN
TRANSPORTED INTO
A TRACKLESS
VOID!

INTERESTING!
YOU APPARENTLY
HAVE HIGHLY DEVELOPED
TELEPATHIC AS WELL AS
TELEKINETIC
SKILLS!

A PITY
THEY DIDN'T
WARN YOU
ABOUT MY
PRESENCE.



WHILE
I'M HARDLY A
WARRIOR LIKE JOHNNY
OR CRYSTAL, MY ARMOR WAS
DESIGNED TO SIPHON MY
GRANDSON'S PSIONIC
ENERGIES --

-- AND
IT SHOULD
WORK JUST AS
WELL AGAINST --

YAAARGH!

SHOULD...

... AND,
PERHAPS,
WOULD...

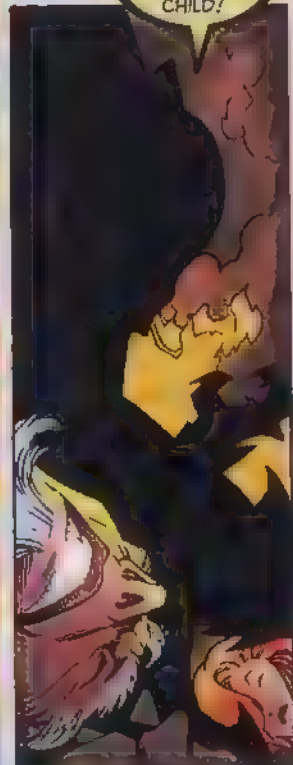
... IF
YOU HAD
SUFFICIENT
TIME, OLD
MAN!



BUT
TIME IS A
LUXURY WHICH
YOU MUST BE
DENIED!

FAREWELL,
MY FRIENDS!

I MUST
NOW RENEW
MY SEARCH
FOR THE
CHILD!



SPRAWLED IN FRONT
OF A LARGE-SCREEN
TELEVISION IN THE
FF'S MEDIA ROOM --

-- THE YOUNG
RICHARDS BOY
IS SEEMINGLY
OBLIVIOUS --

-- TO EVERYTHING
EXCEPT HIS
FAVORITE VIDEO!

SAVE YOUR ARROWS,
HAWKEYE! I'LL
TACKLE HIM!

YOUR
ALIEN THOUGHT
PATTERNS MAKE IT
DIFFICULT FOR ME TO
DOMINATE YOUR
MIND, WOMAN!

YOU
MAKE A MOST
APPETIZING
BAIT...

... BUT
YOU COULDN'T
HAVE HOPED
TO FOOL
ME!

UH-OH!

THE YOUNG BOY'S
FEATURES BEGIN
TO WAVER --

-- AND ARE
SOON
REPLACED BY
THOSE OF
A BEAUTIFUL
SKRULL!

BEN!
HAWKEYE! HE'S
HERE --!

YA GOT
A LOT TA
ANSWER FER,
MISTER!

ASIDE
FROM EVERYTHIN'
ELSE, MY SUPER
DELUXE IS GROWIN'
COLD 'CAUSE A
YOU!

LYJAI!
GET OUT
OF THE
WAY!

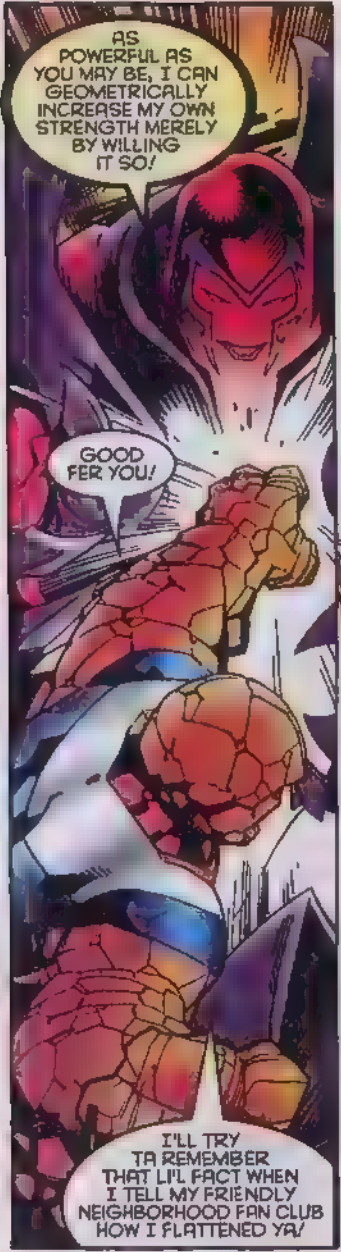
YOU'RE
BLOCKING
MY SHOT!

YA BETTER PRAY LYJAI'S OKAY, BUDDY
BOY, OR THEY'LL NEED A G-TIP TA
MOP UP WHAT'S LEFT A'
YA 'CAUSE --

IT'S
KLOBBERIN'
TIME!

-AURRK-

BUT I
CAN EASILY
RESORT
TO PURE
BRAWN!



AS
POWERFUL AS
YOU MAY BE, I CAN
GEOMETRICALLY
INCREASE MY OWN
STRENGTH MERELY
BY WILLING
IT SO!

GOOD
FER YOU!

I'LL TRY
TA REMEMBER
THAT LIL FACT WHEN
I TELL MY FRIENDLY
NEIGHBORHOOD FAN CLUB
HOW I FLATTENED YA!



I FOUGHT PLENTY
'A CLOWNS WHO
CLAIMED TA BE
STRONGER'N
ME --

-- BUT
NONE WERE EVER
TOUGHER!

YA
MIGHT AS
WELL GIVE UP
NOW --



-- BECAUSE
I'M TOO BLASTED
ORNERY TA
QUIT!

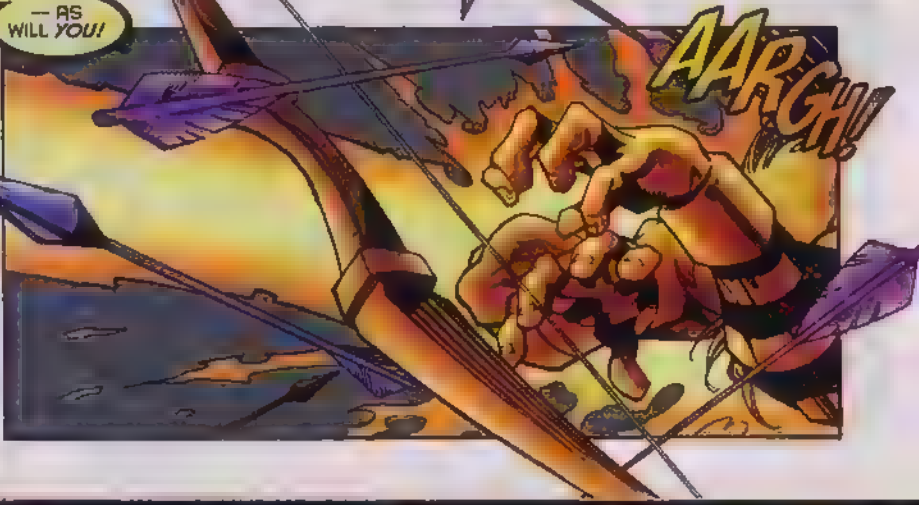
STOP
IT, BEN! STOP
IT! HE'S MESS'NG
WITH YOUR
MIND!

YOU'RE
ONLY WASTING
YOURSELF AGAINST
SOMEONE WHO
ISN'T REAL!



SAVE
YOUR BREATH,
HAWKEYE! THE
THING ONLY SEES
WHAT I WISH HIM
TO SEE --

-- AS
WILL YOU!



AARGH!

FEW MINUTES LATER,
IN ANOTHER ROOM...

DON'T
MOVE!

BUT, Mrs.
RICHARDS —

YOU
HEARD ME,
BISHOP. STAND
STILL!

FRANKLIN MAY NOT *APPEAR*
TO BE HERE, BUT WE CAN'T
TRUST OUR EYES
ANYMORE.

MY
INVISIBLE FORCE
FIELD 'S PROBING THIS
ROOM JUST IN
CASE *ONSLAUGHT* IS
TOYING WITH OUR
PERCEPTIONS!

YOU
CAN SAVE
YOURSELF THE
EFFORT, DEAR
WOMAN.

I AM
PRESENT,
AND I WAS
INDEED PLAYING
WITH YOUR
SENSES.

SADLY,
HOWEVER, I
HAVE YET TO
ACQUIRE YOUR
CHILD.

STEP
ASIDE, Mrs.
RICHARDS!

ONSLAUGHT IS MY
RESPONSIBILITY!

WRONG!
HE'S IN MY
HEADQUARTERS,
ATTACKING MY
FAMILY AND
THREATENING
MY SON!

THAT
MAKES HIM
MINE!

HOW
QUANT!

YOU'RE
ACTUALLY
FIGHTING
OVER
ME!

JUST LIKE
CHILDREN!

RIGHT! WE'VE
GOT TO WORK
TOGETHER!

HIT
ME WITH YOUR
STRONGEST FORCE
FIELD! I CAN ABSORB
AND RECHANNEL
IT AGAINST
HIM!

BUT,
BISHOP...
IT'S FAR MORE
POWERFUL
THAN YOU
IMAGINE!

IT
COULD KILL
YOU!

WE
DON'T HAVE
MUCH CHOICE!
IT MAY BE OUR
ONLY HOPE!
DO IT!

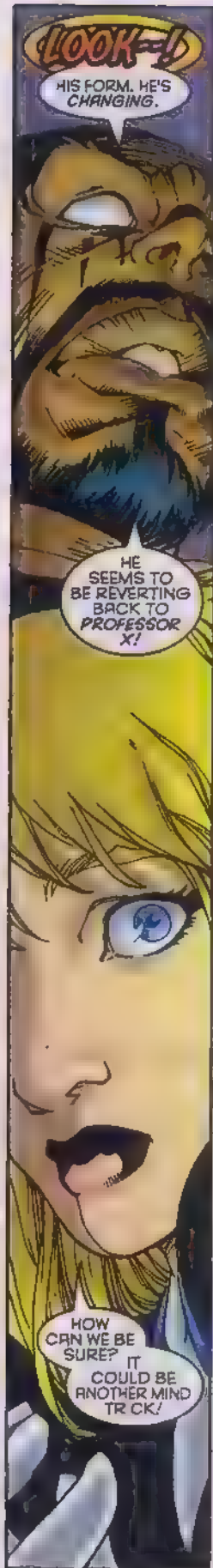
DO IT!

JAYARRGH!

FOR THE SAKE OF HER CHILD,
THE INVISIBLE WOMAN BATTERS
HER COMRADE, AGAIN AND
AGAIN, WITH EVER-INCREASING
FORCE --

-- FORCE WHICH
IS IMMEDIATELY
CONVERTED INTO
HIGH INTENSITY
PLASMA BLASTS --

-- WHICH SOON
SLAMS ONSLAUGHT
TO HIS KNEES!



LOOK!

HIS FORM, HE'S CHANGING.

HE SEEMS TO BE REVERTING BACK TO PROFESSOR X!

HOW CAN WE BE SURE? IT COULD BE ANOTHER MIND TRICK!



I-IT'S NO TRICK! I OWE YOU MY LIFE!

Y-YOUR ASSAULT -- COMBINED WITH MY EARLIER ENCOUNTER WITH YOUR FATHER-IN-LAW'S ENERGY-SAPPING ARMOR -- HAVE FINALLY MANAGED TO DRIVE ONSLAUGHT FROM MY SUBCONSCIOUS!

T-THE DANGER HAS PASSED...

BUT ONLY TEMPORARILY!

BISHOP, IF WE ARE TO SAVE THE BOY, YOU MUST GET ME TO PHOENIX!

ONLY SHE CAN ESTABLISH THE PSIONIC PROTECTION I'LL NEED TO SAFEGUARD AGAINST ONSLAUGHT'S RETURN!

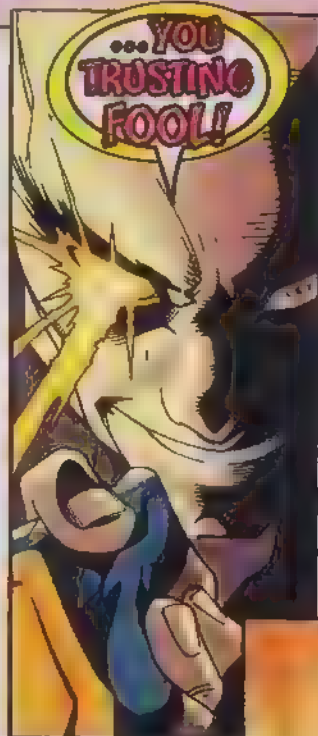


PROFESSOR -- WHY DID ONSLAUGHT WANT THE BOY?

YOU MUST TELL US! WHY DOES HE NEED FRANKLIN RICHARDS?

C-COME CLOSER, BISHOP

P-PLEASE HELP ME..



...**YOU TRUSTING FOOL!**

TOO LATE, THE TIME-LOST MUTANT REALIZES HIS ERROR!

HE ALLOWED HIS PAST LOYALTY TO XAVIER TO OVERWHELM HIS BATTLE-HARDENED INSTINCTS --

-- AND IT PROVED A MOST COSTLY MISTAKE!

FASCINATING! ONSLAUGHT HAS GONE TO CONSIDERABLE RISK TO OBTAIN THE RICHARDS BOY... BUT WHY NOW?

THOUGH THE CHILD IS DESTINED TO POSSESS VAST TELEPATHIC AND TELEKINETIC ABILITIES, AS WELL AS THE POWER TO REARRANGE THE MOLECULAR STRUCTURE OF MATTER —

— HE IS YEARS FROM ACHIEVING HIS PSIONIC POTENTIAL.

WHY HAVE YOU BEEN DRAWN HERE, UATU? DOES ONSLAUGHT TRULY HAVE THE MEANS TO UNLEASH THE MUTANT CHILD'S LATENT POSSIBILITIES?

HAS HE ALSO THE PURPOSE FOR THESE TALENTS?

POSED LIKE A GOD ON THE NEW JERSEY SHORE AND INVISIBLE TO THE MORTAL EYE, THE DREADED APOCALYPSE — DEIGNS NOT TO GLANCE AT HIS SILENT COMPANION.

UATU IS A MEMBER OF A VASTLY POWERFUL EXTRATERRESTRIAL RACE WHOSE SOLE DUTY IS TO PASSIVELY OBSERVE THE PHENOMENA OF THE UNIVERSE.

HIS MERE PRESENCE INDICATES THE APPROACH OF A CRITICAL JUNCTURE TO THE PLANET EARTH.

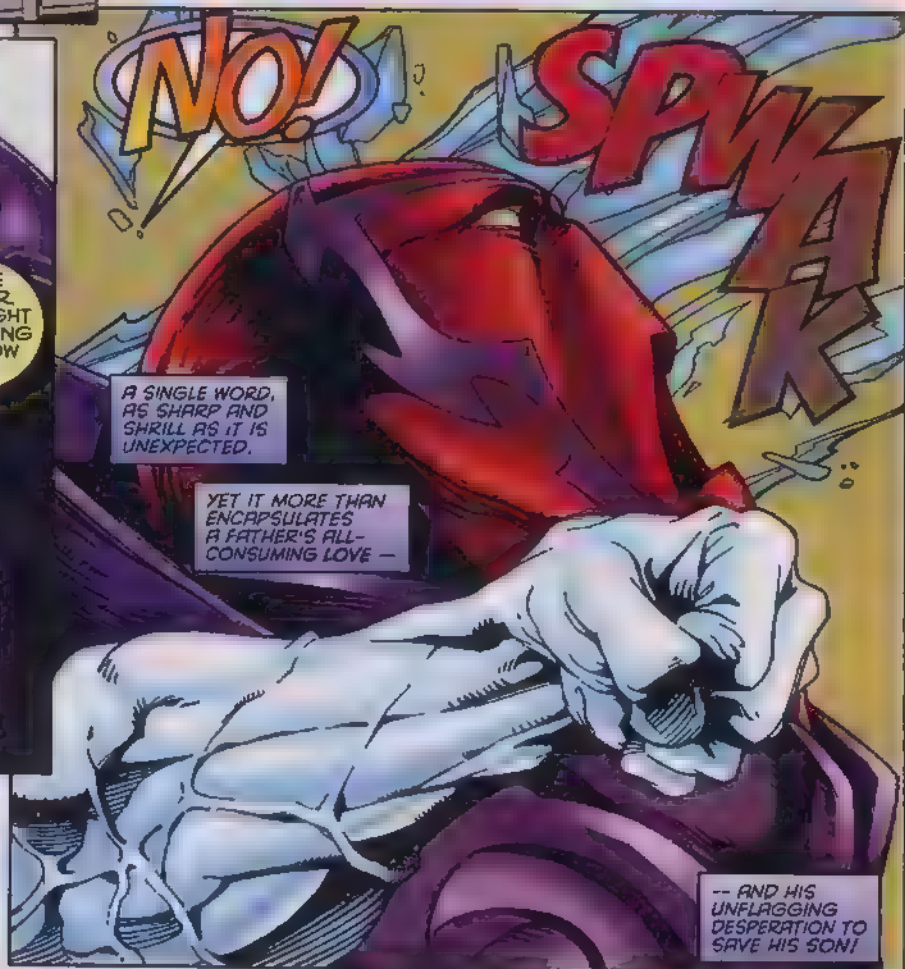
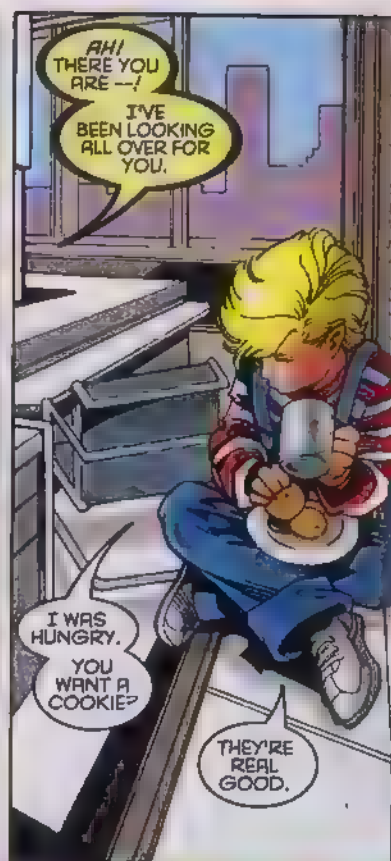
IT MUST BE VERY DIFFICULT FOR YOU, UATU, THOUGH YOU ACTUALLY CARE ABOUT THE FANTASTIC FOUR, YOUR SACRED NON-INTERFERENCE OATH PREVENTS YOU FROM AIDING THEM.

I, ON THE OTHER HAND, ONLY WISH TO SEE THE STRONG SURVIVE... AS THEY SHOULD.

PERHAPS THE DAY OF THE SUPER-HUMAN IS FINALLY OVER... AND WE MUST NOW WELCOME THE AGE OF ONSLAUGHT!

AGAIN, UATU CHOOSES NOT TO RESPOND.

HE MERELY CONTINUES TO WATCH.



REED--!

YOUR SON -- IT'S LIKE HE CAN'T SEE OR HEAR US!

ONSLAUGHT MUST BE MANIPULATING HIS PERCEPTIONS, ICEMAN!

THE MONSTER'S PLAYING WITH FRANKLIN'S MIND, BUT I CAN'T -- I WON'T -- ALLOW IT TO CONTINUE!

BULKING HIS MALLEABLE BODY TO THING-LIKE PROPORTIONS, REED RICHARDS LASHES OUT AT THE ONE WHO WOULD STEAL HIS BELOVED CHILD.

BEFORE TODAY, BOBBY DRAKE ALWAYS THOUGHT OF HIS COMPANION AS A STUFFY SCIENTIST MORE SUITED TO MIXING CHEMICALS THAN BATTLING CRIMINALS.

NOW, AT LONG LAST, THE ICEMAN KNOWS WHY THIS MAN IS CALLED MR. FANTASTIC!

TALK TO ME, ONSLAUGHT!

YOU'VE APPARENTLY CONSTRUCTED AN ELABORATE FANTASY TO WIN FRANKLIN'S COOPERATION, BUT WHY? WHY? WHY?!

SINCE CHARLES XAVIER POSSESSES ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL TELEPATHIC MINDS ON THIS PLANET --

-- I'D GUESS YOU'RE INTERESTED IN MY SON'S UNDEVELOPED ABILITY TO RESTRUCTURE MATTER!

LEAVE HIM ALONE, FOR PITY'S SAKE! HE'S ONLY A CHILD!

GET OUT OF HIS MIND... BEFORE YOU CAUSE INCALCULABLE AND IRREVOCABLE DAMAGE!

THOUGH I DON'T PRETEND TO FATHOM YOUR REAL GOAL OR YOUR TRUE POWER, I'LL DIE BEFORE I'LL ALLOW YOU TO EXPLOIT MY SON!

I'LL STOP YOU! I'LL FIND A WAY TO STOP YOU!

GIVEN SUFFICIENT TIME, YOU MIGHT...

... BUT I CAN PREVENT YOU AND ICEMAN FROM INTERFERING --

-- WITH ONLY A CASUAL THOUGHT!

AT THAT VERY INSTANT,
BACK IN THE FF'S
MEDIA ROOM...

OH, MAN!
ONSLAUGHT'S
BEEN RIPPING
THROUGH US LIKE
A SERRATED KNIFE
ON A FRESH
STEAK!

LOOKS
LIKE HE EVEN
FLATTENED BEN,
HAWKEYE
AND —
— LYJA!

LYJA!

—LUNNHH—

YOU KIDS
CAN GO BACK
TA PLAYIN' KISSY-
FACE AFTER WE'VE
CLOBBERED
THAT CREEP!

IF YER
LUCKY, I MIGHT
EVEN SHARE MY
PIZZA WIT'
YA!

THANK
GOD YOU'RE
OKAY!

CAN YOU
EVER FORGIVE
ME FOR THE WAY
I'VE BEEN
ACTING?

I'VE BEEN
A TOTAL
JERK!

P-PLEASE
DON'T
APOLOGIZE
TO ME,
JOHNNY.

HEY! I
HATE TA PLAY
SPOILSPORT, BUT
WE STILL GOTTA FACE
ONSLAUGHT!

THERE'S
SOMETHING I
SHOULD — I *MUST* —
TELL YOU BEFORE
ANOTHER MOMENT
PASSES!

YOU MEAN
THE FACT THAT
YOU'RE LAURA
GREEN?

H-HOW
LONG
HAVE YOU
KNOWN?

I GUESS
I'VE ALWAYS
KNOWN...
ON SOME
LEVEL.

BUT I
COULD NO
LONGER IGNORE
THE TRUTH AFTER
LAURA — I MEAN —
YOU RECENTLY
KISSED ME
GOODBYE.

A5 SHOWN IN FF#414
— Sentimental Suzo.

NOBODY
COULD EVER
KISS LIKE YOU,
PRETTY
LADY.

W-WHERE
DO WE
GO FROM
HERE?

WE'LL
FIGURE
THAT OUT
LATER.

MUCH
LATER!

MEANWHILE...

MAN!
YOU GOT A
GREAT COLLECTION
OF TRADING
CARDS.

WANT
TO SEE
MORE?

SURE.

GIVE
ME YOUR
HAND --

-- AND
I'LL SHOW
YOU A VERY
SPECIAL
PLACE.

N-NO,
FRANKLIN.

P-PLEASE
DON'T!

LET'S GO,
FRANKLIN.

WE'RE
GOING TO
HAVE SOME
REAL FUN
NOW!

THAT'S FAR ENOUGH,
MISTER. IF YOU
DARE TOUCH MY
SON --

-- YOU'RE
DEAD!

HE PICKED US OFF
ONE BY ONE, BUT
IF WE ALL ATTACK
TOGETHER --!

WE
MAY DIE
TOGETHER.

MAYBE,
BUT WE'VE
RUN OUT OF
OPTIONS.

**HIT HIM
HARD!**

WITH CONCENTRATED
FURY, THE HEROES
STRIKE --!

HAMMERED BY INVISIBLE
JAVELINS, PLASMA BURSTS,
ICE SPIKES, FLAMING SPEARS
AND EXPLOSIVE ARROWS,
ONSLAUGHT STAGGERS.

HIS DEFEAT SEEMS CERTAIN FOR ONE BRIEF INSTANT...

--BUT THEN...

IS ANYTHING WRONG, CHARLIE?

WHEN ARE WE LEAVING?

SOON, FRANKLIN...

... I JUST NEED A MOMENT --

-- TO CLEAN UP A FEW LOOSE ENDS!

THERE --! THAT SHOULD DO IT!

NOW, MY YOUNG FRANKLIN... YOU WILL GIVE ME A GIFT.

A GIFT BEYOND RECKONING...

To Be Continued...

IN
X-MEN

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